

Public Utilities

The Public Utilities Chapter addresses the long-term community needs for the provision of a public water supply, sanitary sewers, and surface water drainage. The physical systems, networks, and equipment necessary to provide for and support these key public utilities are essential in meeting basic health and safety needs of the community and supporting its continued physical development and expansion. The chapter addresses the sequence of extending sewer and water lines on the perimeter of the community, maintaining the present infrastructure systems and protecting the natural and built environment through management of a coordinated storm water system.

Key Issues

1. **Sanitary Sewer Extensions:** What should the City of Eau Claire do to ensure coordination between the cost-effective extension of sanitary sewer facilities and future development in the City's Extraterritorial Review Area?
2. **Urban Sewer Service Area:** What adjustments should the City seek for its existing Urban Sewer Service Area boundary to accommodate the municipal boundary changes accompanying the incorporation of the Village of Lake Hallie?
3. **Regional Planning:** What should the City of Eau Claire do to encourage more effective coordination in the metropolitan area in providing the sanitary sewer and water infrastructure necessary for supporting future residential and business growth essential to the continued economic vitality of the area?
4. **Surface Water:** What should the City of Eau Claire do to ensure effective management of surface water drainage and safeguarding of the water quality in City watersheds?

Goal and Objectives

Goal: Maintain the existing public utility system and extend urban services to fringe areas in a planned, staged manner, while minimizing the impacts to the natural environment.

Objective 1 – Existing Water and Sewer System Infrastructure: Own, maintain, and improve the existing sanitary sewer and water infrastructure.

Objective 2 – New Water and Sewer System Infrastructure: Ensure that water and sewer systems are extended to annexed properties in a planned and staged manner with minimal disruption to the natural environment.

Objective 3 – Natural Environment: Maintain the existing public utility system and construct new public utility infrastructure in a manner that minimizes harm to the natural environment.

Objective 4 – Surface Water Management: Implement the *Eau Claire Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan*, the subsequent sub-area studies and the State water quality permit under NR 216.

Public Utilities Policies

Objective 1 – Existing Public Water and Sewer System Infrastructure

Own, maintain and improve the existing sanitary sewer and water infrastructure.

Policies:

1. **Assess the Condition of the Existing System:** Continue to regularly inventory the condition of existing sewer services, trunks, structures, pumps, and water mains.
2. **Implement Recommended Improvements:** Partner with the City of Altoona to update the sewage treatment plant by 2008 to meet water quality standards. By 2020, Eau Claire and Altoona will collaborate to expand and rehabilitate the plant.
3. **Minimize Infiltration and Inflow:** Maximize the efficiency of the existing sanitary sewer system by continuing to implement improvements that reduce infiltration and inflow.
4. **Coordinate Utility and Street Work:** Continue to coordinate the street resurfacing and reconstruction program with the replacement and repair of under-street public utilities.
5. **Update the Water Distribution System Computer Model:** Analyze the pipe network to determine the required upgrades, extensions, and improvements to serve existing and planned expansion areas.

Objective 2 – New Public Water and Sewer System Infrastructure

Ensure that water and sewer systems are extended to annexed properties in a planned and staged manner with minimal disruption to the natural environment.

These policies coordinate with several from the Land Use Chapter.

Policies:

1. **Utilities Staging Plan:** Approve annexation petitions, extend interceptor lines, install pump stations, and permit land developers to extend sanitary sewer and water lines according to the following priority, as illustrated by Figure 8-1, Public Utilities Staging Plan:
 - **Short Term:** Areas that are not presently served but only require minor extensions of trunk sewer or can be easily served by lateral lines.
 - **Medium Term – A:** Areas that are not currently served but are expected to receive development pressure and a need for trunk line service to accommodate development during the next five years.
 - **Medium Term – B:** Areas that are not currently served but are expected to receive development pressure and a need for trunk line service to accommodate development during the next 5 to 10 years.
 - **Long Term:** Areas that may need trunk sewer service for anticipated urban development but are not anticipated to be served for 10 years or more.

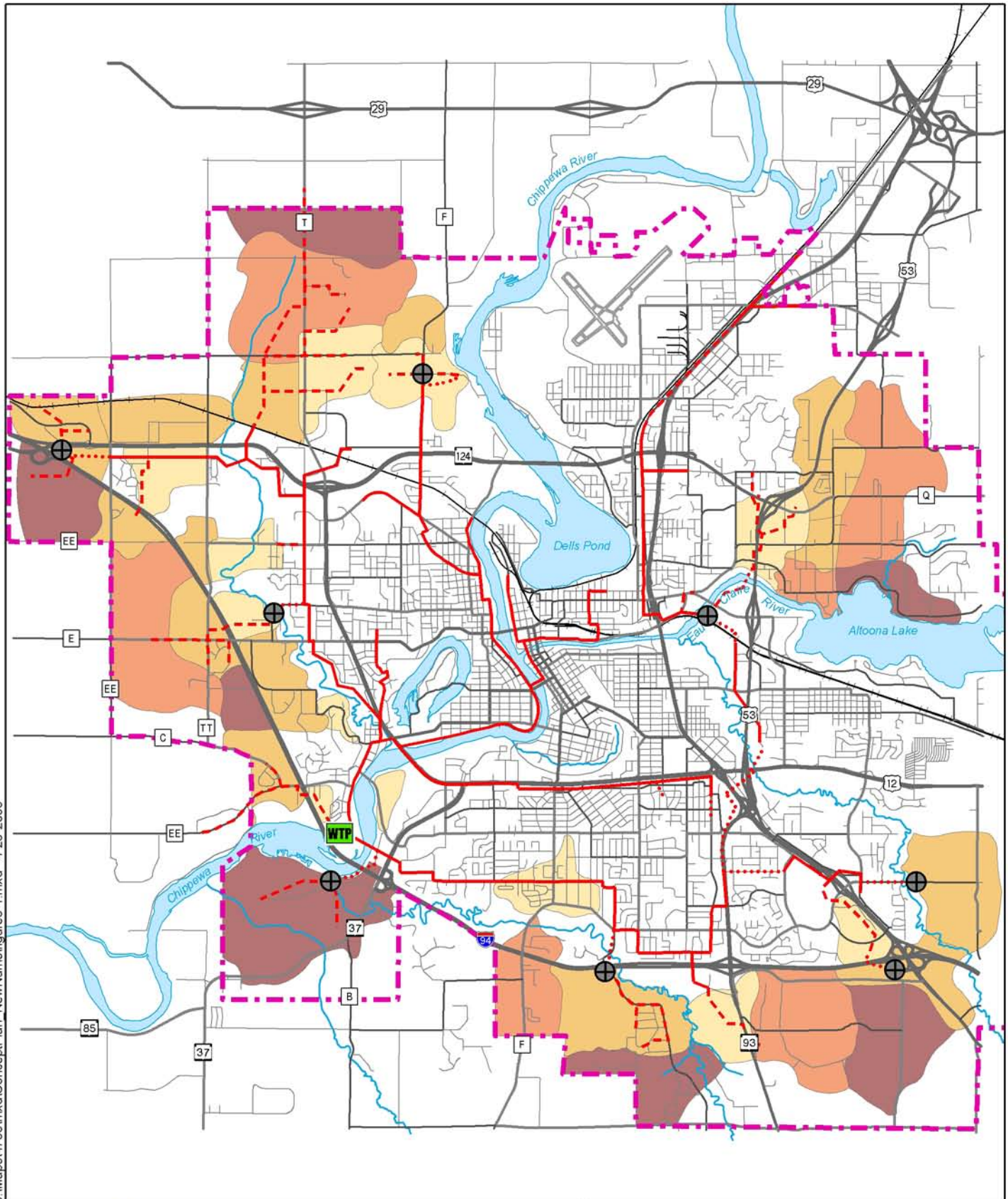
The City may amend the Public Utilities Staging Plan prior to the next major update of the *Comprehensive Plan*, if:

- Development occurs faster than anticipated in a given location; or
- The land development market indicates a strong preference for change and is willing to compensate the City for additional facility costs incurred in making the change.

Eau Claire will solicit comments from the adjacent towns and the Metropolitan Planning Organization on amendments to the Public Utilities Staging Plan. Approval of annexation petitions and the subsequent extension of sanitary sewer and water lines will be in accordance with the approved Public Utilities Staging Plan, in order to effectively manage perimeter growth.

Eau Claire will seek to implement this policy first through intergovernmental cooperation and agreement or, if that fails, in accordance with the statutory provisions for extraterritorial subdivision review.

2. **Planned Interceptor Lines and Pump Stations:** Complete the recently planned trunk-line improvements, including the Seymour Forcemain Interceptor in the U.S. 53 Freeway corridor and the Jeffers Road Pump Station. No other trunk-line improvements are planned for the 2005-2010 period.
3. **Growth Management:** Ensure utility extensions are consistent with the policies identified in Perimeter and Regional Growth, Objective 3, of the Land Use Chapter.
4. **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** Seek the cooperation of adjacent towns, West Central Regional Planning Commission, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in providing for the orderly and staged extension of sanitary sewer and water infrastructure improvements to guide growth in the Urban Sewer Service Area.



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|---------------|------------------------|--|
| Stage | Sewer Line Type | Pump Stations |
| Short Term | Existing Trunk Lines | Wastewater Treatment Plant |
| Medium Term A | Planned Trunk Lines | Proposed Urban Sewer Service Area Boundary |
| Medium Term B | Force Main | |
| Long Term | | |

Figure 8-1

Public Utilities Staging Plan

Objective 3 – Natural Environment

Maintain the existing public utility system and construct new utility infrastructure in a manner that minimizes harm to the natural environment.

Sewer and water services allow and promote intensive urban growth in undisturbed locations. Eau Claire is committed to regulating such growth so that it respects sensitive natural features.

Policies:

- 1. Minimize Disturbance to Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESAs):** Minimize the extension of water and sewer infrastructure into designated ESAs through the continued application of its Zoning Ordinance, especially Chapter 18.11, Flood Plain District, and Chapter 18.12, Shoreland-Wetlands Overlay District.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, ESAs are defined as portions of the landscape, including valuable natural resource features, that should be protected from intensive development. ESAs include all lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodways, and certain other significant and unique natural resource features. Areas of steep slopes of 20% or greater are also be included as an ESA with the DNR recommending reducing the threshold to 12% or greater.

In general, roads, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and water mains should be allowed to cross ESAs if care is taken to minimize disturbance. Also, private utilities, storm water management facilities, and recreational facilities should be allowed to be constructed within an ESA.

- 2. Steep Slopes:** Improve protection of steep slopes by preparing and adopting an ordinance regulating disturbance in those locations. The slope protection requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be the minimum requirements for this new ordinance.
- 3. Major Wooded Areas:** Prepare and adopt an ordinance regulating clear cutting of major wooded areas.
- 4. Private On-site Wastewater Treatment:** Continue to require new development in the City of Eau Claire to connect to the public sewage system. Require annexed development served by an on-site system to connect to the City's sewage system within one year that the sanitary sewer becomes available. Septic tanks and other private, on-site wastewater treatment facilities located outside the City would continue to be regulated by the County unless otherwise specified through intergovernmental agreements.

Objective 4 – Surface Water Management

Implement the Eau Claire *Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan*, the subsequent sub-area studies and the State water quality permit under NR 216.

The Natural Resources Chapter should also be consulted regarding the protection of soil, slopes, woods, and waters.

Policies:

- 1. Storm Water Plan Implementation:** Continue to refer to the recommendations of its 1992 *Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan* when making decisions in the subject areas of water volume, rate, storage, and quality and erosion control.

The 1992 plan identifies the design recommendations to address the watersheds of the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers and Sherman, Lowes, and Otter Creeks.

- 2. Storm Water Plan Updates:** Update the 1992 *Comprehensive Storm Water Management Plan* by conducting additional sub-area studies in the Lowes Creek and Otter Creek watersheds, which were partially addressed in the 1992 plan, along with a study west of County Highway TT in the Town of Union, which was not included in the 1992 plan.

The calculations for the Sherman Creek watershed should be reviewed using more accurate information about current and planned land use.

- 3. Water Quality Protection:** Continue to safeguard and improve water quality in City watersheds by following the points in the permit issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under Section NR 216 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The elements of that permit address:

- Legal authority to control storm water runoff from new development
- Monitoring program
- Storm water management
- Catch basins
- Leaf collection
- Street sweeping
- Structural control maintenance
- Roadway maintenance
- Nutrient management on City properties
- Construction site runoff
- Flood control devices
- Illicit connections and discharges
- Industrial and high risk runoff
- An information and education program
- Toxic spills
- Reduction of the discharge of Total Suspended Solids to surface waters

- Assessment of controls
 - An annual report
4. **Runoff Review:** Expand the City's present requirements for erosion control from construction sites (Chapter 16.36.040, Standards for Public and Private Development, Storm Drainage), using the DNR model ordinance. That section should be amended to include:
- That a construction control plan be prepared for each development or redevelopment site of one acre or greater in size as required under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 151, Construction Site Performance Standard for New Development and Redevelopment. That regulation requires the use of Best Management Practices to reduce by 80% the sediment load carried in water runoff.
 - Flexibility for City staff to modify release rates based on downstream conditions, such as limited conveyance system capacity, erosion potential, and/or regional storm water facilities.
 - Requirements for grading plans to regulate runoff during and after individual lot construction and landscaping.
 - Any Best Management Practices that are required under the NR 216 water quality permit.
5. **Regional Surface Water Management Plan:** Collaborate with nearby communities, Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties, and the Wisconsin DNR to prepare and adopt a storm water management plan for all of the watersheds in the metropolitan area. That plan should include a runoff and ponding model and recommendations for restoring or improving wetlands. The provisions of Eau Claire's state surface water drainage permit could be incorporated by reference.